(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the names of the companies which have shown interest for privatization of telephone system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) No Sir. At present no proposal is under consideration of Govt. for privatisation of telephone system in the country. As such the question of furnishing details in this regard along with the names of the companies having shown interest in the matter does not arise. However, certain value-added services like Electronic Mail Service, Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, Paging services, Videotex, Video Conferencing, Voice Mail, Data Services (via satellite), Direct Access Code Dialling, Audiotex etc. have been opened up for private sector participation on franchise basis.

Recasting of National Telecommunication Policy

76. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Telecommunication policy is being recast and the thrust of the new policy will be on the involvement of the private sector in basic services including rural networking; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The National Telecommunication Policy is still under consideration of the Government.

Telephone services in Delhi and other cities of the country

77. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any solid plan to control day to day rising complaints of telephone services to Telephone holders/consumers, particularly with number 198 in Delhi and also in other cities of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken or is likely to be taken to improve the telephone services being rendered to the consumers/telephone holders in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The clearence of faults booked on 198 is being monitored at the highest level to ensure the repair of telephones in the shortest possible time. Plans have been formulated for extending computerisation of Faults Repair Service to all major exchange centres.

Steps taken to improve the telecommunications services are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Steps taken to improve telecommunication Services

1. Telephone Exchanges and Media:

(a) introduction of Electronic Exchanges.

(b) Introduction of Electronic Taxs

(c) Introduction of Electronic Transit exchanges.

(d) Phasing out of old and life expired electromechanical exchanges.